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UNCLAS ANKARA 008599

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: PD PROGRAM ALUMNI IN NEW TURKISH GOVERNMENT

1. Turkey's November 3, 2002 election swept the new AK Party into power and also swept away many familiar faces. We have periodically reported on the number of PD program alumni who had risen in the ranks of the government and been elected to the Turkish Grand National Assembly. Many program alumni were leaders of the defeated coalition, however, in the week that saw the appearance of the lists of new ministers and new parliamentarians, showed a number of familiar names - newly influential alumni. The Mission had good relations with the victorious AKP and CHP members while they were in the opposition, thus there is easy contact with them as the new majority and minority parties. In addition to frequent meetings, office calls and social events, members of the new government and parliaments have been participants in a variety of PD programs.

2. International Visitors Program:

Prime Minister, Dr. Abdullah Gul, AK Party MP from Kayseri participant in the Multiregional International Visitor Program, "US Economy in the World Economic System", July 27-August 14, 1995. At the time Dr. Gul had been a sitting member of Parliament from the Refah Party and an Associate Professor in Economics at Sarkarya University.

Minister of Defense, Vecdi Gonul, Individual Program on State and Local Government, 1986. At the time M.r Gonul was the Governor of Izmir.

Hanefi Mahicicek - AK Party MP from Kahramanmaras - Participated in the FY2000 program for mayors.

Ekrem Bilek - Democratic People's Party (CHP) former Mayor, now MP from Siirt - State and Local Government, 1994

Several programs were designed for mayors from the Southeast of Turkey during the difficult years of the insurgency in that region. Funding came from many sources, Mission and ECA but the programs were modeled on IV programs. Among the participants who are now MPs are:

Ahmet Munir Erkal, AK Party MP from Malatya, 1997

Ali Sezal, AK Party MP from Kahramanmaras, 1997

3. Fulbright Fellowship:

Minister of State for the Economy - Ali Babacan, Masters Program, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University, 1990-91.

4. IRC:

Our Information Resource Center has served the role that the Congressional Research Service plays in Washington for many of Turkey's lawmakers. We already see the trend continuing with the new team.

Minority Party (CHP) leader Deniz Baykal's secretary frequently calls our IRC with reference questions.

Prof. Dr. Aziz Akgul of Kirikkale University is now an AKP deputy and was a senior advisor to former Prime Minister Erbakan (1997). He has gone to the IRC with lengthy queries on civil service reform, performance budgeting and e-commerce. He is an avid recipient of our Table of Contents Service.

Mehmet Dulger, AKP deputy had been an active American Library member since he was one of the one of the founders of DYP, and top aide to President Suleyman Demirel.

15. There will be more.